Laboratory Safety Manual

Section 4
Waste Management

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

Duke University must take precautions to protect its employees, visitors, students, neighbors and the environment from the improper disposal of chemical, and radioactive, and medical wastes.

RESPONSIBILITES

Departments shall:

- Ensure that all waste generators within their department comply with the chemical, radioactive, and medical waste management polices outlined in Section VII of the Duke University Safety Manual.

Occupational and Environmental Safety Office (OESO) Environmental Programs Division:

- Assures that **chemical and radioactive wastes** are appropriately handled and disposed of in accordance with State and Federal laws.

Chemical Waste –
The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 established requirements for the management of chemicals deemed to be hazardous to the environment. Specifically, such waste must be managed from its generation (cradle) to its final destruction (grave). Duke University/Medical Center is classified as a large quantity generator of hazardous waste. A detailed list of responsibilities and procedures for the management of chemical wastes can be found in Section VII of the Duke University Safety Manual and the OESO Chemical Waste webpage.

Radiological Waste –
The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) established requirements for the management of radioactive materials including wastes. Specifically, radioactive waste must be monitored similarly to all other radioactive materials under a license from the NRC or the State approved program. Duke University holds two broad licenses allowing the use of isotopes up to atomic number 83. Researchers who wish to use radioisotopes are licensed by the Radiation Safety Division of the OESO. A detailed list of responsibilities and procedures for the management of radiological wastes Section VII of the Duke University Safety Manual.

Medical Waste – Refer to Section2, Biological Safety, Chapter 6 Waste Management.